

SATURDAY NIGHT TALKS

By REV. F. E. DAVISON
Rutland, Vt.

THE GRACE OF GIVING.

International Bible Lesson for
Dec. 5, '09—(2 Cor. 8: 1-15).



The grace of giving! Not the fact of giving, the duty of giving, but the grace of giving, that is the theme of the lesson. If we could see the motive behind every dollar going into the treasury, as Christ saw the heart of the widow who tremblingly, but cheerfully dropped in her two mites, "which make a farthing," what a revelation it would be.

Good Security.

How little giving there is of that magnificent pattern. In Paul's day the church in Antioch took up a collection, and sent Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem with it, and the offering was permeated with love. Now, the church has to keep a set of men busy all the year round going from place to place, prying money out of the pockets of the brethren. Dean Swift once preached a sermon from the text, "He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord," and his sermon consisted only of these words, "Brethren, if you are satisfied with the security, down with the dust." He got a generous collection. But even in that instance there was shown a keen knowledge of human nature, a desire for security for every farthing doled out. He who gives gracefully doesn't inquire about the security. It is not a question of lending, it is a straight-out gift.

Credit for Intention.

Much that passes for benevolence is not that at all. A man by mistake put a \$5 gold piece in the collection plate in one of my parishes. When he discovered the error he came to the treasurer and demanded the return of the coin, saying that he intended to put a new penny in the offering. He was an officer of the church, too, and had a bank account. Another man who made that mistake and who could not recover the funds because the missionary had left town, said bitterly, "Well, I will get credit in heaven for \$5 anyhow." "Oh, no, you won't," was the pastor's reply. "You will get credit for what you meant to give—one cent." "The Lord loveth the cheerful giver." But he who "casts his bread upon the waters," simply and solely, that he may get it back again after many days, is merely putting out his money at interest, anticipating increasing riches. He is planning to build bigger barns, to buy another farm, to augment his bank account, to feather his own nest. There is not the slightest element of pure benevolence about that.

Getting Money's Worth.

Neither is the grace of giving exercised in the "ring cakes," "grab bags," "post-offices," and "auction sales" to which many churches have resorted as effectual methods of separating tight-fisted people from their money. We have come to an age when young and pretty maidens are educated in the arts of wheedling susceptible young men into buying at exorbitant prices, things they have no earthly use for, for the benefit of some "cause," and many a man eats five dishes of indigestible cake, and two dishes of cream, and labels it benevolence. It has come to be taken for granted that like old-fashioned wooden pumps, that have to be primed with a bucket of water in order to get more water out of the well, a man must have a turkey supper put into his stomach in order to get the money out of his pocket. The "cooking stove apostasy" is as much an evil in its way, as heresy in the pulpit or wickedness in the pew.

Not that there is anything wrong in itself in a good meal of victuals in a church vestry. Christ Himself enjoyed a square meal, and accepted more than one invitation to a full Oriental banquet, the evil consists in the false education that trains our young people to think that when they eat themselves sick at a church supper, and pay for it, they are giving that money to the Lord. They are not! They are paying for value received. They have already secured the worth of their money, and carry it away with them—in headache, dyspepsia and such like accumulations. Oh, no, the man who, at a church supper, eats 50 cents worth of cake, and strawberries and cream, and trouble in his economy, and pays 25 cents for it, and then refuses to give anything toward the church debt on the ground that he has already contributed has been wrongly educated. He knows nothing about the grace of giving. Listen to Paul, "Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" A complaining Christian once asked a preacher whether he really believed we could get the heathen to understand or practice religion—just as we do. "I hope not," said the preacher "for converted heathen sing and pray and give, while from what I have heard of you, I am persuaded that you do neither."

HOME DRESSMAKING
By Charlotte Martin.

LITTLE GIRL'S DRESS.



Pattern No. 418.—Plain blue cotton was used for this little dress and the trimming bands are cut from dotted blue and white material, showing the dots in line. The sleeve is in one piece with a seam on the upper side, covered with a trimming band. A pretty flare is given to the skirt by the four gores set in the back and front.

This pattern is cut in four sizes, 4, 6, 8 and 10 years. Size 6 requires 2 1-2 yards of 36-inch material.

LADIES' CORSET COVER.

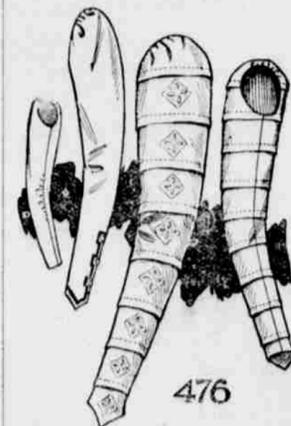


Pattern No. 446.—For making an elaborate looking corset cover with very little work this design is admirable. The garment is cut with a straight upper edge and any kind of lawn or lace flouncing makes up prettily, using the finished edge at the top and gathering it with a ribbon. A bit of narrow embroidery around each armhole and a ribbon run bending for the lower edge are the only trimmings required.

The popular hand made effect can be obtained easily by using sheer lawn flouncing with a plain hemstitched edge and working eyelets for the ribbons. Another pretty way to make up the design is to use narrower edging across the top, making the required width by joining it to a strip of plain lawn with a lace insertion between. Do this before cutting and lay on the pattern as with the wide flouncing.

The pattern is cut in 5 sizes, 32 to 40 bust measure. Size 36 requires 1 5-8 yards of material 16 inches wide.

LATEST SLEEVES.



Pattern No. 476.—Two styles are included in this pattern and a pointed or straight finish at the wrist can be used.

The larger view shows the tucked sleeve cut in one piece with a dart under the elbow tucked to form the curve. The plain sleeve follows the same lines as the tucked one and is fitted at the elbow by gathers.

This pattern is cut in three sizes, 32, 36 and 40 inch bust measure. The gathered sleeve requires 7-8 yards of 36-inch material and the tucked sleeve requires 1 yard of 36-inch material.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

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